

FACTSHEET

Plant Protection & Quarantine

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

July 1996

Tips for Bringing Back Plants and Plant Products From Canada

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for safeguarding American agriculture by preventing the entry of exotic pests and diseases into the United States. APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) staff inspects travelers' vehicles and personal belongings at ports of entry across the country, looking for prohibited agricultural products that could be harboring pest or disease organisms. PPQ's efforts help keep our food prices low, increase agricultural exports and trade, and allow the United States to serve as a major food source for the world.

The following information is provided as a guide to help you bring back plants, plant products, fruits, and vegetables from Canada into New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. (Requirements for bringing fruits and vegetables to other States, such as Florida or California, may be more restrictive. Call the individual States for their requirements.) This information is general in nature. Commercial importers and the traveling public should contact the following PPQ office numbers if further information is required:

Buffalo PPQ office (716) 551-4021
Rouses Point PPQ office (518) 297-5391
Montpelier PPQ office (802) 828-4490
Manchester PPQ office (603) 666-7445
Bangor PPQ office (207) 945-0479
Detroit PPQ office (313) 226-6967

Fruits and Vegetables

Fruits and vegetables not grown in Canada cannot be brought from Canada into the United States. If there is doubt as to the origin of the material, the Department of Treasury's U.S. Customs Service or APHIS' PPQ officers will seize it at the border. This material includes but is not limited to tropical and subtropical fruits, such as citrus, mangoes,

lychee, and melons. In addition, temperate fruits, such as Japanese oriental pears, grapes, plums, apples, and peaches, that are brought across the border out of season are prohibited because their origin is most likely from a country other than Canada.

Green corn on the cob is permitted entry into the United States from most Canadian Provinces. Contact your nearest PPQ office if the final destination of corn is Florida or the Southwestern United States.

Potatoes from Newfoundland or Vancouver Island are prohibited from entering the United States.

Other fruits and vegetables of Canadian origin are allowed to enter the United States when they are declared. This includes Canadian apples, plums, berries, etc.

Remember, if the origin of the agricultural material is suspect or a potential plant pest is evident, your fruits and vegetables will be seized. Other foodstuffs, including canned goods and dry and frozen foods, are generally allowed to enter the United States. However, rice is restricted entry, and dried or fresh citrus products are prohibited. Contact your nearest PPQ office to find out more about entry procedures.

Plants

Indoor plants from Canada can enter into the United States, and providing a Canadian sales receipt will assure speedy entry of these plants. However, citrus plants, orchids, palms, or cacti have very restrictive regulations for entering the United States. Contact the nearest PPQ office to determine the enterability of these restricted plants.

Outdoor Plants

Because the following plants require special certification to enter the United States, contact the nearest PPQ office prior to importation: okra or *Abelmoschus* spp. (including seeds), garlic or *Allium sativum*, pineapple or *Bromeliads*, chestnut or *Castanea* spp., chinquapin or *Castanopsis* spp., palm or *Chaenomeles* spp., filbert or *Corylus* spp., pine or *Pinus* spp., sycamore or *Planera* spp., cherry or *Prunus* spp., pear or *Pyrus* spp., raspberry or *Rubus* spp., currants or *Ribes* spp., elm or *Ulmus* spp., grape or *Vitis* spp., and chinese elm or *Zelkova* spp.

Other nursery stock and plants grown outdoors are allowed to enter the United States when accompanied by a Canadian plant health certificate or phytosanitary certificate. If you cannot obtain this plant health certificate, you must bring your plants through a staffed USDA location and have your plants inspected by a PPQ officer. Contact the nearest PPQ location to make an appointment. U.S. Customs has been given limited authority to release enterable outdoor plants that are accompanied by a Canadian plant health certificate.

Seeds and Nuts

Seeds or nuts (except corn) that originate from Canada and are for consumption are allowed to enter the United States.

Plant, flower, fruit, and vegetable seeds that are of Canadian origin and are intended for personal use are allowed to enter the United States. The following seeds are allowed to enter the United States only with a Canadian plant health certificate: hibiscus, sweetpea, kenaf, lentil, okra, and rough pea.

Canadian corn for propagation or consumption requires special permits. Contact the nearest PPQ location for more information.

Berberia, *Mahonia*, and *Mahoberberis* from any origin are prohibited from entering the United States. Also, if you are importing any seed that is not of Canadian origin, you must contact the nearest PPQ location.

The guidelines for bringing plants or plant products into the United States are current as of summer 1996. Be aware that if the origin of a plant product cannot be determined, or there is a potential pest risk, a PPQ or Customs officers will seize the product. Failure to declare prohibited agricultural items may result in a fine of up to \$1,000.

We want to thank you for obeying the plant quarantine laws and helping protect American agriculture. If you have any additional questions or need assistance, you may contact:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
P.O. Box 278
Rouses Point, NY 12979
(518) 297-5391